

TRAVEL 9-1

29 November 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director/Intelligence
THROUGH: Assistant Director, Research and Reports
SUBJECT: Trip Report of [REDACTED] 25X1A9a

I. Purpose of Trip

The trip was designed to allow my participation in the Regional Conference of the International Geographical Union held in Tokyo and Kara, Japan, and the associated field trips scheduled by the Conference before and after the formal meetings in order to review and evaluate geographic research programs and informally confer with geographic specialists on the Far East.

II. Activities and Findings

25X1A9a A. Two days prior to the Hokkaido field trip were spent in conferring
with [REDACTED] concerning Conference
25X1A9a plans and problems, and in making arrangements with the Organizing
Committee for participation in the excursions and Conference meetings. 25X1C4d
25X1A9a Discussions with [REDACTED] centered on problems encountered by the Japanese
in organizing the conference. In addition, I received a biographic
briefing from [REDACTED] on Japanese geographers I would be likely to
meet on the excursion and later during the Conference. The Japanese
Organizing Committee was apparently greatly concerned by the procrastination
of the State Department and the National Academy of Sciences in
establishing an official list of U.S. delegates. As of the opening day of
the Conference (August 19th), the Committee had not received an official
listing of the American delegation. Because of his numerous connections
with Japanese geographers in governmental and educational circles, Dr.
25X1A9a [REDACTED] found himself, despite his disclaimers, in the difficult position
of being considered by the Japanese as the [REDACTED] 25X1C4d
representative on IGU matters. As the first [REDACTED]
on the scene, some of this pressure for information was also transferred
to me. Fortunately I soon left town on the Hokkaido excursion and by the
time I returned the official list had been received and order and reason
again reigned. 25X1C4d

B. On August 19 I left Tokyo on Excursion I to Hokkaido with the following Conference participants: Hans Ahlmann, Stockholm University; Chen Cheng-Siang, National Taiwan University; Hong Kyung Hl, Kyung Buk

University, Taegu, Korea; Sidney G. Davis, Hong Kong University; Eila M. J. Campbell, University of London; Joan Barry, U.S. Quartermaster Intelligence Agency; George B. Cressey, Syracuse University; Alden Cutshall, University of Philippines; Shannon McCune, University of Massachusetts; William G. McIntire, Louisiana State University; John T. Kozakis, Army Map Service, Far East; and George T. Townsend, AMSFE. Details of excursion activities, observations and impressions are given in paragraph E below.

C. Upon return to Tokyo on August 25, discussions were held with the Geographic Attaché in Tokyo concerning anticipated substantive intelligence benefits of the forthcoming Conference. I was also briefed on the current problems and activities of his office. The tremendous distances that must be covered by the GA in the Far East continue to be a major deterrent to the effective scheduling of procurement trips. The inability to schedule a procurement trip to Malaya before the government turnover, the unfortunate timing of his Indonesian trip, and the lack of coverage of the Pacific Science Conference at Bangkok in November are examples of this.

D. From August 28 until August 31, I attended general and section meetings and receptions of the Conference in Tokyo. Observations and impressions are detailed in paragraph F below. On September 2, the Conference locale was moved to Nara, but I returned to the United States for personal reasons indicated in Section III.

E. The following paragraphs relate in detail some of my activities, observations, and impressions during the Hokkaido excursion. The party of 10 foreign geographers (McCune, McIntyre and Hong joined the group in Hokkaido) left Tokyo on August 19 under the guidance of four Japanese geographers -- Misao Watanabe, Meiji University; Takamasa Nakano, Geographical Survey Institute; Toru Ishimatsu, Science and Technics Agency; and Yoshiaki Fujino, Ministry of Transportation -- and flew directly to Chitose Airport in Hokkaido. The horde of newsreel photographers at the airport, reporters equipped with portable tape recorders, and newspaper men was the first indication I had of changes that had occurred in Hokkaido since my last visit in 1955. Thus within an hour of our arrival in Hokkaido we were entertained by the spectacle of our debarkation on Sapporo television accompanied by the taped "first impressions" of the more senior geographers of the party. Indeed, most of us had ample opportunity to become accustomed to being photographed in a variety of situations: examining samples from a peat bog, staring at rice fields, feeding at the innumerable receptions or engaging in the favorite indoor sport of the Japanese -- exchanging calling cards. The "Eiffel Tower"-like structure that contained Sapporo's transmitting tower was the most striking development since my previous visit. Sapporo, a city of more than 500,000, has many features which are representative of the "newly-built" cities of Hokkaido: a rectangular pattern of land division, gridded street pattern, wide streets and roads, and an areal differentiation of functional land use. These characteristics are strikingly

at variance with the traditional Japanese pattern and reflect Hokkaido's frontier status and colonial origins. Our tour of Sapporo and environs and subsequent lectures on the economic geographic characteristics of Hokkaido also laid stress on the effects of the more recent development of Hokkaido. A few examples will suffice to illustrate: agriculture is characterized by a more commercialized type of farming and by the greater use of mechanization than in the rest of Japan, industrial development is mostly concerned with primary processing of plant, animal, forest, or sea products. Little development of consumer industries was noted. Our tour of Sapporo was climaxed by a reception given by the Governor of Hokkaido and the Mayor of Sapporo, followed by an excellent 16 mm. motion picture on Hokkaido produced by the Hokkaido Electric Power Company.

The second day of the tour was devoted to the observation of the "Hochmoor" area of the Ishikari lowlands and to the discussion of the problems related to the reclamation of this area of peat bogs. Land reclamation in this area began shortly after World War II and to date about 8,000 hectares of peatland in the lowland have been reclaimed, and 5,000 hectares of this is now under cultivation. Our questions concerning land utilization, however, revealed a flameout in their operation at the critical time. Reclamation, as the official guide book points out, requires the construction of drainage ditches, application of top soil dressing, and in some cases fertilizer and lime. These procedures "require more investment than can be compensated within a short period unless some highly profitable crops are introduced. This is only possible by adequate protection of the government." Inquiries in the field, however, indicated that there was no government direction of planting and that most of the area had been planted to paddy rice despite the difficulty in growing that crop in the north. Rice yields in Hokkaido, we were told, are 19 koku per hectare as compared with 25 koku per hectare on Honshu. We were reminded of some of the problems of road building by the minor earthquake set off by every truck or bus that passed by on the road. Rural roads, almost never paved, are gravel and dirt on two or three feet of rock base on the thick resilient beds of peat. Road maintenance, under these conditions, is an almost hopeless task.

The remainder of the day was spent in the observation of a cross-section of Hokkaido during a rail journey from Ebetsu to Obihiro. The route passed through the Sorachi coal field and we noted coal workings at Bibai, Sunagawa, and Utashinai as well as the ammonium sulphate fertilizer plant, gun powder plant, and electric power plant at Sunagawa. Other coal workings and hydroelectric plants were observed further on at Akabira and Ashibetsu. Our day's journey ended at Tokachigawa Spa where, our scientific reputations having preceded us, we were greeted at our hotel by a sign, "Welcome to the International Conference of Ground Scholars," and feted by the administrator of Obihiro District.

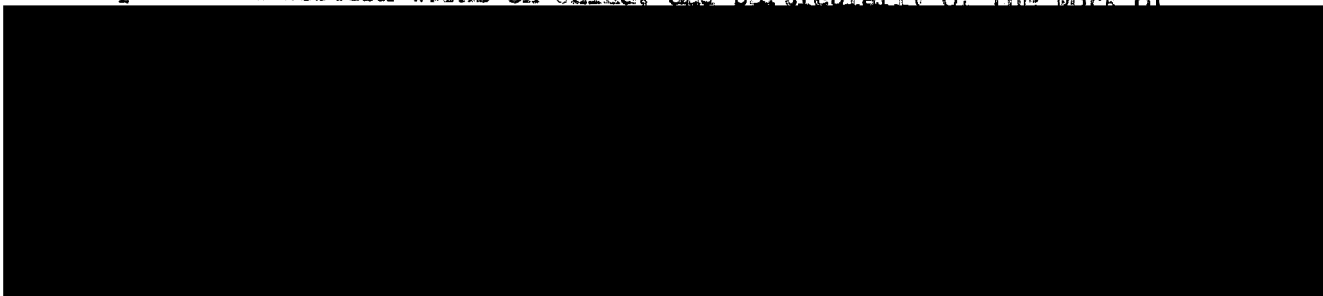
The third day of the tour was devoted to a reconnaissance of the Tokachi Plain by chartered bus and included a visit to district agricultural

farm near Obihiro, an agricultural experimental station, and to several private farms. Ample opportunity was had to question farmers and agricultural workers on the characteristics and problems of agriculture in Hokkaido. Considerable contrast was noted between the land use of the Tokachi Plain and that seen on the Ishikari lowlands the previous day. Paddy fields occupy only a small portion of the Tokachi, and nowhere else in Japan is dry farming practiced so extensively. Most farms, we were told, combined dairying and commercial crops (soy beans, flax, or sugar beets) and farm areas averaged two to four times the size of most households in Hokkaido. The prosperous appearance of farmsteads was a striking feature of the landscape here.

The tour then proceeded to Kushiro, where a morning was spent in the observation of the commercial port and industrial center of Kushiro and a visit to the Taiheiyo coastline. The remainder of the day was devoted to a bus trip from Kushiro to Kawayu Spa in the Akan Fuji cauldrea. The trip to Akan and beyond to Abashiri afforded ample opportunity to observe close at hand a great variety of volcanic topographic forms, active vulcanism, and the extensive development of coniferous forests.

At Abashiri I left the tour and returned to Tokyo, but not before a number of useful contacts had been made.

F. The following paragraphs detail some of my activities, observations, and impressions during the meetings in Tokyo from August 28 to September 2. The activities of the Conference were initiated by a reception given by the Association of Japanese Geographers and the Tokyo Geographical Society on the evening of August 28th. Although my activities were somewhat limited by personal difficulties (see Section III), I was able to make a number of contacts with both Japanese and foreign geographers. One such contact was Chen Cheng-Siang, associated with the Fu-min Geographical Institute of Economic Development, Taipei, Taiwan. Chen's geographic research interests were already known to the Far East Branch through the pamphlets and books on Taiwan's resources published by the Fu-min Institute. Our conversations both on the Hokkaido trip and at the meetings chiefly concerned the present status of general geographic research and books on mainland China. He was highly critical of published Western works on China, and particularly of the work of



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Sidney G. Davis, head of the Department of Geography and Geology, University of Hong Kong, is actually a geologist and has little actual interest in geographic subjects, despite the fact that he gave a paper on population growth and pressure in South China and Hong Kong. The paper was little more than a pot-boiler designed to justify his attendance at the Conference. He is, however, a man of some personal charm who floated through the conference and excursion in a completely relaxed manner which contrasted with the harried academic competitive manner of Cressey, McCune, and others.

Mrs. Kyung Hi Hong, from the Department of Geography, Kyung Buk University, Taegu, Korea, was a school-teacher type whose main concern

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In addition to the general sessions and sections meetings in Tokyo, I also attended receptions given by the President of the University of Tokyo, the President of the Science Council of Japan, and the Governor of Tokyo.

The Conference was attended by 32 Geographers from the United States, 7 from Korea, and 6 each from England and Nationalist China. Four geographers attended from India, while the U.S.S.R., Sweden, and Pakistan each had three geographers at the meetings. Other countries represented by one or more geographers were Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Indonesia, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, and Switzerland. No indication of formal Chinese Communist representation was noted at the meetings, nor was any reference made to the informal presence of Chicom observers. Personal difficulties prevented adequate observation of this, however. The meagre showing of Russian geographers is in contrast with the large contingent reportedly planning to attend the Pacific Science Conference at Bangkok. A greater regional interest in Southeast Asia than in Japan is one possible explanation. It was rumored around the meeting rooms that the Russians were planning to send a ship, filled with geographers and auxilliary personnel, to the IGU meetings at Stockholm in 1960. The ship was to anchor in the harbor and serve as living quarters for the Russian geographers during their stay, thereby cutting down on Russian per diem payments and simplifying Russian security problems.

Papers presented at the meetings understandably reflect the geographic interests of the Japanese, who gave most of the papers. Twenty-two papers, for example, dealt with land use in Japan, 16 were concerned with physical geographic aspects of Japan, 9 related to regional economic development in Japan, 8 on water problems in Japan, and 7 on Japanese urban geography. On areas other than Japan, 6 papers were presented on regional economic development in India and 6 on the climate of China (including Taiwan). I.P. Gerasimov of the U.S.S.R. presented a paper on the "Application

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of Geomorphological Methods in Seismological Researches" and another on "Subtropical (Mediterranean) Geographical Landscapes of the USSR and Their Far Eastern Analogues." M.B. Gornung read "Some New Soviet Publications on the Geography of Asia for the Period 1950-1956," and K.A. Salischev presented "Creation of National Atlas -- One of Central Problem of Modern Geography."

Abstracts of the papers, excursion guide books, other Conference publications, and various Japanese promotional publications are available for reference in the Far East Branch, Geography Division, ORR.

III. Problems or Difficulties

The onset of a severe physical disability four days after my arrival in Japan radically restricted by activities in Hokkaido and Tokyo, seriously hampered effective participation in the Conference, and forced my return to the United States ahead of schedule. Many of the contacts I had planned to make during the meetings (Particularly with the Russian, Burmese, Korean, Chinese, and Indian delegations) were necessarily foregone due to the difficulty of moving about. After unsuccessfully attempting to obtain interim medical aid from the Tokyo Army Hospital and realizing that extended hospitalization was probably necessary, I notified Mr. Percy (Office of the Geographer, State Department) of my intentions and took the next available plane back to the United States on September 2nd.

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IV. Commitments

No commitments were made.

V. Recommendations

A. Although medical difficulties such as I experienced are not likely to occur in the usual TDY trip, I would recommend that emergency arrangements be made for contacting our own people even by those on

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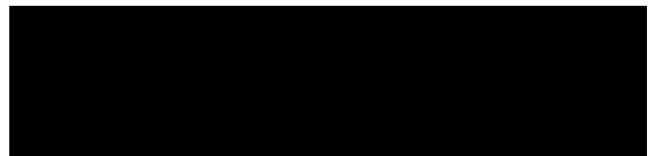
to them [REDACTED] The interest of other agencies in our people attached often adds up to little more than indifference.

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B. Despite the abortive nature of my trip, I further recommend that strong consideration be given to sending geographers to scientific meetings in their areas of interest, and especially to those meetings which include field trips or organized excursions planned by native geographers. The obvious advantage of being able to talk with regional specialists who normally would not be able to attend meetings in the United States is enhanced by the opportunity to conduct field observation under the guidance of a trained scientist intimately acquainted with local conditions. A third advantage is the opportunity to confer with the leading academic and governmental regional experts from the United States and other parts of the world. The increasing amounts of travel money available to U.S. academic geographers from the various foundations and grants means that regional conferences are well attended by academicians. Interestingly enough, the travel grant often has its source in federally supported external research.

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*Given to [redacted]
for distribution per
her request - 10 Dec '57*

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